

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

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An image data distribution system and method of distributing image data to a plurality of image communication units connected thereto via network - an image data distribution system and method which can effect changes in distribution destination through simple procedures and materializes shortened transmission time and high-resolution images.

The system according to the present invention is based on an image data distribution system wherein groups of destinations are formed of members selected from among a plurality of image communication apparatuses capable of sending and receiving image, wherein an image server the image server has information on destination group memorized on a storage memory thereon and wherein, when the image server receives a request for distribution of image data together with destination information through a network from one of the image communication apparatuses, - a digital multifunction apparatus, for example - , the image data will be sent out to the respective members of the destination group specified by the destination information. In this image data distribution system, the distribution managing means sends all the distribution destination group names to a digital multifunction apparatus when a request for registration with a group is received from input manipulation means provided in the digital multifunction apparatus and registers the digital multifunction apparatus with a specified distribution destination group when the distribution destination group is specified by the digital multifunction apparatus.